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Tobacco Use among Middle and High School Students: Results from the North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey, 1999–2007

by

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Abstract

North Carolina first conducted the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) in 1999 among middle and high school students, and found current smoking rates higher than the national average. Since that time, the North Carolina YTS has been conducted four times. Every survey to date has been highly representative due to the very high response rates by schools and students. In 2007, both middle and high school tobacco use rates were at their lowest point in state history. Middle school current cigarette smoking was 4.5 percent and high school current cigarette smoking was 19.0 percent. Almost every type of tobacco product use (cigarette, cigar, pipe, and bidi) has decreased since the 1999 YTS. Health officials should expand and improve implementation of proven evidence-based tobacco prevention strategies (e.g., mass media when combined with local interventions and increasing the cigarette excise tax) and develop new strategies to promote continued declines in youth smoking.

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